

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, as amended, remain herein.

This Amendment is believed to place this application fully in condition for allowance, and surely in better condition for any appeal. Thus, entry of this Amendment and allowance of all claims 1-4 are respectfully requested.

1. Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Claim 1 is amended, mooting the rejection. Claim 1 now recites that pads are on a surface of a semiconductor substrate, and that a card is located parallel to that surface.

2. Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Yamaguchi U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0071331. Yamaguchi discloses a semiconductor device with pads, wirings, and a projected electrode 3 at the end of the wirings. See Yamaguchi, Figs. 1, 2, 7, 8 and 10A-D. Yamaguchi fails to disclose wirings for contacting bumps on a probe card, when such a card is located parallel to said surface of the semiconductor substrate and contiguous to the wirings, but spaced from the pads.

The Office Action cites projected electrodes 3 as wirings for contacting bumps on a probe card. The Office Action further states that projected electrodes 3 are part of wiring layer 4. But, a projected electrode is not a wiring, as recited in applicants' claim 1. It is clear from applicants' specification that the term "wirings" means "wirings" and not projected electrodes or bumps (see, e.g. Figs. 4-8, p. 6, line 10-p.7, line 6). One specific benefit of the claimed invention is that the surface area of a semiconductor chip can be decreased, because the wirings, which do not take up

space on the semiconductor chip, can contact bumps on a test card. The projected electrodes of Yamaguchi provide no such benefit. Further, Yamaguchi specifies that the projected electrode 3 is not part of the wiring layer 4, rather it is electrically connected to the wiring layer 4. See Yamaguchi, paragraph [0117].

Regarding claim 2, Yamaguchi fails to disclose at least two wirings, both of which physically contact one bump on a card, without touching each other. The Office Action cites Yamaguchi Fig. 8 as disclosing these elements, but Fig. 8 discloses only three projected electrodes 3, each projected electrode contacting a separate contact terminal on a test probe.

Regarding claim 3, Yamaguchi fails to disclose wirings, each wiring having at least one bent portion or angular portion for directly contacting one or more bumps. Rather, as discussed above, Yamaguchi discloses a cone or pyramid-shaped projected electrode 3. These are not the wirings recited in applicants' claim 1.

Regarding claim 4, Yamaguchi fails to disclose wirings that have electrically separable portions for electrically disconnecting the wirings from the pads. The Office Action refers to Fig. 1 of Yamaguchi as disclosing electrically separable portions, but it is unclear to what the Office Action refers.

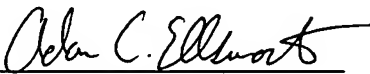
Since Yamaguchi fails to disclose every element of any of claims 1-4, Yamaguchi is an inadequate grounds for rejection of claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Accordingly, all claims 1-4 are now fully in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. The PTO is hereby authorized to charge/credit any fee deficiencies or overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-4293. If further amendments would place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is invited to call applicants' undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP

Date: January 24, 2008



Roger W. Parkhurst
Reg. No. 25,177
Adam C. Ellsworth
Reg. No. 55,152

Attorney Docket No.: 28951.1169

STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP
1330 Connecticut Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
Tel: (202) 429-3000
Fax: (202) 429-3902